

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2041
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY
INFO SECDEF
CINCPAC
CINCPACFLT
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 0746

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MARR, MPOL, SN, NZ, UK

SUBJECT: U.S. NAVY ACCESS TO STORAGE BASIN AND FUEL DEPOT
IN SINGAPORE

REFS: (A) WELLINGTON 0465 (NOTAL); (B) STATE 039185 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: GNZ HAS REQUESTED ASAP INFORMATION RE U.S., UK AND AUSTRALIA BERTHING REQUIREMENTS AT NAVAL BASIN IN SINGAPORE IN FUTURE YEARS. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT OBTAIN PROJECTED U.S. BERTHING REQUIREMENTS FROM SECDEF AND THAT EMBASSIES LONDON AND CANBERRA OBTAIN SIMILAR INFO RE UK AND AUSTRALIAN NAVY USAGE FROM HMG AND GOA. THIS MESSAGE INCLUDES INFO ON U.S. NAVY SHIP VISITS TO SINGAPORE AND USE OF NAVAL BASIN FOR CY-73 AND 74, AND UK REQUIREMENTS FOR CY-75 AS PROJECTED BY RESIDENT NAVAL OFFICER. AMBASSADOR WILL REVIEW GNZ DISCUSSION WITH SINGAPORE MINDEF LATER TODAY. END SUMMARY.

2. REF A REPORTS THAT GNZ IS NOT AVERSE TO TAKING OVER SHIP BERTHS AT STORES BASIN, BUT IS RELUCTANT TO MANAGE SENOKO FUEL DEPOT. GNZ HAS ALSO REQUESTED ASAP INFORMATION ON U.S., UK AND
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AUSTRALIAN BERTHING REQUIREMENTS AT STORES BASIN IN FUTURE YEARS.

3. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT OBTAIN ROUGH APPROXIMATION BERTHING REQUIREMENTS FOR CY-75, 76 AND 77 FROM SECDEF AND INFORM EMBASSY WELLINGTON ASAP. ALTHOUGH DAO HAS OBTAINED PROJECTION FROM UK RESIDENT NAVAL OFFICER FOR CY-75 AND EXPECTS TO RECEIVE SIMILAR INFO FROM AUSTRALIAN DEFENSE ATTACHE, WE SUGGEST EMBASSIES LONDON AND CANBERRA ENDEAVOR OBTAIN THIS INFORMATION FROM RESPECTIVE MODS AND INFORM EMBASSY WELLINGTON ASAP.

4. SINCE PAST USAGE MAY PROVIDE SOME INDICATION OF FUTURE REQUIREMENTS, U.S. NAVY OFFICE IN SINGAPORE HAS DEVELOPED FOLLOWING INFO FROM ITS RECORDS RE NUMBER OF U.S. WARSHIPS VISITS TO SINGAPORE, THE NUMBER OF SHIP DAYS AT THE NAVAL BASIN AND MAN OF WAR (MOW) ANCHORAGE. (APPROXIMATELY ONE-THIRD OF THE SHIPS USING THE MOW ANCHORAGE WOULD HAVE USED BERTHS AT THE NAVAL BASIN HAD THEY BEEN AVAILABLE.) IN CY-1973, A TOTAL OF 80 U.S. WARSHIPS VISITED SINGAPORE FOR A TOTAL OF 601 SHIP DAYS. 46 SHIPS USED THE NAVAL BASIN FOR A TOTAL OF 433 SHIP DAYS AND 34 USED THE MOW ANCHORAGE FOR A TOTAL OF 168 SHIP DAYS. IN CY-1974, A TOTAL OF 59 WARSHIPS VISITED SINGAPORE FOR A TOTAL OF 424 SHIP DAYS. 33 SHIPS USED THE NAVAL BASIN FOR A TOTAL OF 259 SHIP DAYS AND 26 USED THE MOW ANCHORAGE FOR A TOTAL OF 165 SHIP DAYS. IN NAVATT'S CONSIDERED JUDGEMENT, NUMBER OF VISITS BY U.S. WARSHIPS TO SINGAPORE IN CY-1975 MORE LIKELY TO FOLLOW EXPERIENCE IN 1974 THAN IN 1973 WHEN THERE WAS GREATER USN ACTIVITY RELATED TO VIETNAM WAR.

5. UK RESIDENT NAVAL OFFICER (RNO) HAS ADVISED NAVATT THAT ROYAL NAVY WILL CONTINUE TO CONTROL NAVAL BASIN THROUGH CY-75. HE ANTICIPATES THAT IN CY-75 ROYAL NAVY WARSHIPS WILL USE THE NAVAL BASIN FOR A TOTAL OF 498 SHIP DAYS (368 FIRM THROUGH AUGUST, THE REMAINDER PROJECTED). ROYAL FLEET AUXILIARY SHIPS WILL USE THE BASIN FOR 116 SHIP DAYS (60 FIRM THROUGH AUGUST, THE REMAINDER PROJECTED). THIS WOULD MEAN A TOTAL ROYAL NAVY USE OF THE NAVAL BASIN OF 614 SHIP DAYS IN CY-75 OF WHICH 428 ARE FIRM THROUGH AUGUST AND THE REMAINDER PROJECTED. THE RNO HAS DECLINED TO PROJECT FOR CY-76, BUT ANTICIPATES A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION.

6. AMBASSADOR EXPECTS TO SEE NEW ZEALAND HIGH COMMISSIONER
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PEREN LATER TODAY RE HIS PEREN'S) CONVERSATION WITH MINDEF ON
FEBRUARY 22.
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